in its Judgement dated 6th May, 2002 in the case of Brij Mohan Lal *Vs.* Union of India & others have upheld the Constitutional and legal validity of fast track courts scheme and have laid down guidelines for their efficient functioning & the monitoring of their performance.

(c) Yes, Madam. The programme of action is laid down in the recommendations of the Eleventh Finance Commission and the guidelines prescribed by the Supreme Court. It is the primary responsibility of the State Governments to establish Fast Track Courts as envisaged under the Scheme. The Central Government is also constantly persuading the State Governments and the High Courts to make all the Fast Track Courts functional as soon as possible.

The Supreme Court in its Judgement dated 6th may, 2002 has directed as follows:—

"At least one Administrative Judge shall be nominated in each High Court to monitor the disposal of cases by Fast Track Courts and to resolve the difficulties and shortcomings, if any, with the administrative support and cooperation of the concerned State Government. State Government shall ensure requisite cooperation to the Administrative Judge."

(d) The Supreme Court in its Judgement dated 6th May, 2002 has directed as follows:— "The High Court and the State Government shall ensure that there exists no vacancy so far as the Fast Track Courts are concerned, and necessary steps in that regard shall be taken within three months from today. In other words, steps should be taken to set up all the Fast Track Courts within the stipulated time.

The direction given by the Supreme Court has been communicated to the State Governments and High Courts for their compliance.

Proposal to set-up Singapore Style e-court

2017. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that proposal has been formulated to establish the Singapore style e-court set-up at the apex court level where all proceedings can be conducted electronically;

(b) if so, the details thereof, including the specialised training facilities launched and infrastructure created/proposed to be created in the various States;

(c) whether and to what extent amendments to relevant Rules/Acts would be necessary to leverage the benefits offered by the information technology backed by the IT Act; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time-frame fixed to make the e-court project operational at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. On the direction of the then Chief Justice of India, the National Informatics Centre (NIC) submitted a Project Report on the upgradation of the computer network of the Supreme Court in September, 2000.

NIC, in its Report had suggested that the existing Hardware and Software at the Supreme Court required to be changed. Some new applications namely, Management Information System (MIS), Public Interface System and Electronic-Courts (E-Courts) on the Singapore style are proposed to be introduced.

The Supreme Court of India, in consultation with NIC, has already procured necessary computer Hardware and Software for upgrading the existing IT facilities. The project has several Public Interface Applications such as: Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS) for providing case status information to the public, Certified copies to the litigants public, to provide access to the latest orders and judgements, issuance of notices by electronic means, to inform the litigant public about the case status through Short Message Service (SMS) etc.

Proper utilization of IT facilities will be achieved by conducting special training programmes for the Judges, officers and staff of the Supreme Court and for the advocates. The training will be provided by the NIC.

(c) and (d) Before the proposed E-Court is actually set up and the proposed application of Electronic Filing System is translated into practice in the Supreme Court of India, it would be necessary to identify and make amendments in the relevant provisions of the Supreme Court Rules, 1966, particularly dealing with filing, listing and hearing of the matters etc. The amendments will be carried out by the Supreme Court Registry as and when required. No time frame has been fixed to make the E-Court project operational.